

## **REMARKS**

Independent claim 1 has been amended herein. Without limiting the scope of embodiments of the invention, only in an effort to impart precision to the claims (e.g., by more particularly pointing out embodiments of the invention, rather than to avoid prior art), and merely to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to in part recite limitations directed to:

- receiving a service request from a user of the storage network;
- determining an amount of credit available on a local media for the user of the storage network;
- implementing the service request at the processor when the amount of credit is sufficient to execute the service request;
- and
  - when the amount of credit is insufficient to execute the service request:
    - generating, in response to the received service request, a token request for a service token; and
    - transmitting the token request to a server communicatively connected to the storage network; and
  - at the server:
    - validating the token request;
    - transmitting to the processor a response to the validated token request; and
  - at the processor in the storage network:
    - invoking the service request when the response to the token request includes at least one service token.

Nothing in the cited references discloses (nor even suggests) the combination of elements recited in claim 1, as amended. Claims 2-13 depend from independent claim 1, and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency. New claims 35-47 recite features similar to those recited in claims 1-13.

## **CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the present application. Should any issue remain that prevents immediate issuance of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss the unresolved issue.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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